

Coventry Bowls Small Grants

Delivered by Coventry City Council (CCC) in partnership with the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA)

Programme aims

- Increase year-round participation in bowls, especially during colder months
 - Support clubs in purchasing and maintaining bowls equipment, including short mat
 - Encourage inclusive access for older adults, disabled players, and new participants i.e. children and young people
 - Strengthen community wellbeing through social sport
 - Help to increase physical activity levels
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Available funding

Grants of **up to £3,000** are available for organisations in Coventry.

What will we support?

- **Bowls equipment** i.e. short mat starter kit, short mats, bowls, jacks, fenders, storage solutions, delivery mats, bowling arms, pushers and handling units.
 - **Community engagement** i.e. external marketing support, open days, taster sessions, schools' engagement and general outreach work.
 - **Coaching** i.e. volunteer training, coach development.
 - **Minor adaptations to facilities** i.e. storage, decorating, windows, flooring, changing rooms/toilets, catering facilities.
 - **Accessibility enhancements** i.e. equipment or minor modifications to support disabled or older participants to improve access to movement e.g. wheelchair ramps, grab bars, widening of doorways.
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Eligibility criteria

- Coventry-based bowls clubs or community groups (CV1 – CV6) with a priority around indoor bowls provision
 - Access to an indoor venue (e.g. clubhouse, community centre, school hall etc.)
 - Proof of tenure of venue / facility
 - Constituted group with own bank account
 - Demonstrated or willingness to carryout outreach work and community engagement in partnership with the Bowls Development Alliance
 - For indoor provision, hold current affiliation or commit to affiliating to English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA)
 - Completion of the Club Heath Checker via the Bowls Development Alliance with one-to-one support where required
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What we cannot fund

- Costs you are committed to paying already, including salaries for existing staff, rent and utilities
- Facility hire of your own spaces
- Costs that are not for direct delivery; for example, project development (such as feasibility or consultation costs), project evaluation and/or unexplained or contingency costs
- Costs you have already incurred; this could be retrospective costs – those owed from before the date on the award letter, or costs from projects that started before we made our offer to you
- Costs that include funding another organisation; for example, distribution of grants on our behalf – you can't use our funds to make grants to other organisations
- Costs for the benefit of an individual, such as purchases for personal or private gain, including personal items of equipment and clothing
- Costs someone else is already funding; for example, any costs covered by another source of funding – you must declare all sources of funding for your project in your application
- We also cannot provide funding for recoverable VAT or cash purchases.
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Travel or expeditions
- General appeals
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Sponsored or fundraising events or groups raising funds to distribute to other causes
- Schools, churches or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated
- Projects that are not focused on bowls provision

Application timeline

- **Application Deadline:** 5pm 1 February 2026
- **Decisions Announced:** February 2026
- **Funding Provided By:** 31 March 2026

Support available

- Application guidance and support from the Bowls Development Alliance in partnership with Coventry City Council both online and in-person (at your request).
- Club Health Checker process, club affiliation and governance support from the Bowls Development Alliance (at your request).

How to apply

All funding information, templates and application forms will be available to download from the Coventry City Council website.

- Your application will need to include the following:
 - A completed application form.
 - An itemised budget for your project (included within the application form). Please prioritise your funding requests in order of most importance.
 - A delivery plan (optional - a template will be available to download).
 - Two valid quotes per item to be submitted with applications to justify the amount requested for equipment, minor adaptations to facilities or accessibility enhancements.
 - A letter of support from a venue or partner organisation (if applicable for organisations that do not own their facility)
- Please submit your completed application and supporting documentation to covsport@coventry.gov.uk with 'Coventry Bowls Small Grants Application' in the email subject field and by the deadline.

Additional supporting information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation.
- Your Club's Constitution and/or Code of Conduct.
- Proof of a bank account in the name of the Club with at least two unrelated signatories.
- Your Club's Safeguarding Policy .

- Your Club's Equal Opportunities Policy.
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Funding Bid Tips

- **Show the community need** – e.g., how your project improves inclusivity and accessibility for more people to play bowls
 - **Explain the local impact** – clearly outline how your project will enhance bowls provision in Coventry
 - **Support with evidence** – include at least 2 valid quotes in applications to justify funding for equipment, facility adaptations, or accessibility improvements
 - **Prioritise requests – provide a clear order of importance for the funding you are seeking. We may not be able to fund everything!**
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Additional Conditions of Award

All grant applicants will need to complete an end of grant monitoring form at the end of their project and supply at least one case study with a photo or video.

All grant applicants will be expected to participate in any appropriate publicity as requested by Coventry City Council or the Bowls Development Alliance.

Contacts

Coventry Sport Team on covsport@coventry.gov.uk

Bowls Development Alliance on victoriaevans@bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com

Recommended equipment suppliers

- [Verdemat Bowls Short Mat Introductory package offer](#)
- [Verdemat Bowls Short Mats](#)